

Message Text

SECRET

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12

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ADP-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 USIA-12 TRSE-00 MBFR-03

SAJ-01 SS-15 NSC-10 ACDA-19 IO-13 RSR-01 /135 W

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R 151640 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1495

SECDEF

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION NATO

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

USLO SACLANT

USDEL MC

DIA WASHDC

S E C R E T THE HAGUE 2694

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MCAP, NATO, NL

SUBJECT: DPC MINISTERIAL: MOD REQUESTS FOR

BACKGROUND ON SECRETARY- DESIGNATE

SCHLESINGER' S REMARKS

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REF: THE HAGUE 2623

SUMMARY: DEFMIN VREDELING AND MOD INTELLIGENCE STAFFS, PERCEIVING CONFLICT BETWEEN WHAT SECRETARY-DESIGNATE SCHLESINGER SAID AT DPC AND WHAT WAS CONTAINED IN MC BRIEFINGS TO DPC AND IN MC-161, HAVE REQUESTED TEXT OF PENTAGON STUDY REFERRED TO IN WASH POST ARTICLE OR WHATEVER ELSE SCHLESINGER BASED HIS STATEMENT ON REGARDING CONVENTIONAL BALANCE IN EUROPE. SINCE FACTS ON THIS BALANCE WILL PLAY IMPORTANT PART IN FORMULATION OF DEN UYL GOVT'S DEFENSE POLICY, WE WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING GUIDANCE SOONEST FOR USE IN FURTHER DISCUSSIONS WITH MOD AND MFA. END SUMMARY.

1. THE DEFENSE ATTACHE OFFICE HAS BEEN ASKED BY AGENCIES OF THE ROYAL NETHERLANDS AIR FORCE, ROYAL NETHERLANDS ARMY AND THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE FOR MORE SPECIFICS ON THE REMARKS MADE BY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE SCHLESINGER TO THE DPC DEFENSE MINISTERS MEETING ON 7 JUNE 1973.

2. THE COMMENTS OF SECRETARY SCHLESINGER APPEAR TO MOD TO BE AT VARIANCE WITH NATO MC161 AND WITH THE BRIEFING GIVEN BY REAR ADMIRAL POSER, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF THE INTELLIGENCE DIVISION OF NATO TO THE NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL ON 23 MAY 73. TEXT OF HIS BRIEFING IS CONTAINED IN NATO INSM 226-73 AND A CONDENSED VERSION OF THIS BRIEFING WAS GIVEN TO THE DPC MINISTERS ON 7 JUNE 1973.

3. MC-161, WHICH WE UNDERSTAND WAS APPROVED BY DIA, PRESENTS A RATHER PESSIMISTIC OUTLOOK OF THE BALANCE OF FORCES BETWEEN NATO AND THE WARSAW PACT. WE UNDERSTAND THE THRUST OF ADMIRAL POSER'S REMARKS INDICATED AN EVEN GREATER, AND GROWING, IMBALANCE THAN THAT PRESENTED IN MC-161. SECRETARY SCHLESINGER'S REMARKS STRUCK MOD AS MUCH MORE OPTIMISTIC. BECAUSE OF PUBLICITY HERE ON THE NATO PENTAGON STUDY (WASHINGTON POST STORY) DUTCH MILITARY AND CIVILIAN OFFICIALS ARE CONVINCED SECRETARY SCHLESINGER'S DESPITE DAO'S RE-ITERATION OF LINE TAKEN BY PENTAGON
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REMARKS WERE BASED ON THIS STUDY, SPOKESMAN JUNE 7 (PARA 6, STATE 111387). DAO HAS BEEN ASKED BY THE AGENCIES LISTED IN PARA 1 FOR COPIES OF THE PENTAGON REPORT OR STUDY TO WHICH THEY ALLEGE THE SECRETARY REFERRED. (THEY ALSO ASKED FOR THE TEXT OF HIS ADDRESS AND WERE INFORMED IT WAS ALREADY AVAILABLE TO GON THROUGH NATO.

4. THE DUTCH DEFENSE AGENCIES ARE ASKING IN EFFECT FOR DATA ON WHICH SECRETARY SCHLESINGER BASED HIS REMARKS. IF HIS REMARKS WERE BASED ON A PENTAGON STUDY, THEY WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE STUDY. IF NOT, WHAT WAS THE BASIS OF HIS REMARKS, SINCE THEY APPEAR TO THE DUTCH TO BE AT VARIANCE WITH POSITION PREVIOUSLY APPROVED BY U. S. ?

5. THERE IS ALREADY GREAT CONCERN AMONG DUTCH MILITARY OVER THE DIRECTION THE DUTCH GOVT WILL TAKE ON DEFENSE. THE NEW GOVERNMENT HAS ANNOUNCED ITS DESIRE FOR SIZEABLE DEFENSE ECONOMIES AND HAS QUESTIONED THE NECESSITY FOR MAJOR ARMAMENT PURCHASES SUCH AS THE REPLACEMENT AIRCRAFT FOR THE F-104. THE MILITARY NOW HAVE A PLAUSIBLE CONCERN THAT THE CONFIDENT PICTURE OF NATO FORCES PORTRAYED BY SECRETARY- DESIGNATE SCHLESINGER WILL CAUSE THE GOVERNMENT TO CANCEL OR AT LEAST DEFER FORCE MODERNIZATION DECISIONS FOR ITEMS SUCH AS LANCE AND NEW AIRCRAFT.

6. REQUEST GUIDANCE.
TANGUY

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NNNNMAFVVZCZ

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*** Current Classification *** SECRET

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